

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Please cancel original claims 1-20 and replace these claims with the following rewritten claims.

21. (New) A device for supplying and processing packages arranged on support elements, especially beverage packs, with a continuously running conveyor belt, wherein the support elements are arranged on the conveyor belt, wherein two revolving cycle belts are provided after the drawing rollers seen in the running direction of the conveyor belt, wherein the cycle belts revolve in a plane parallel to the plane of the conveyor belt, wherein the cycle belts each have a side facing the other cycle belt and the sides facing one another run parallel to one another at a distance which corresponds to the width of the support elements, characterised in that two drawing rollers are provided on the right and left of the conveyor belt, whose axes of rotation are perpendicular to the plane of the conveyor belt, the cycle belts have a toothed structure on the sides facing one another and that the support elements are provided with a toothed structure on their two outer sides.

22. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein the cycle belts are constructed as toothed belts which are each guided by two toothed-belt disks.

23. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein a sensor is provided to detect a draw-in position of the support elements.

24. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein the front teeth and rear teeth of the support elements seen in the transport direction have an enlarged spacing compared with the middle teeth.

25. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein the draw-in position of the support elements is arranged such that only the two front teeth of the support elements seen in the transport direction engage with the cycle belts.

26. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein a second sensor is provided to detect a braking position.

27. (New) The device according to claim 21, wherein draw-in rollers are provided before the drawing rollers seen in the transport direction of the support elements, whose axes of rotation are arranged perpendicular to the plane of the conveyor belt.

28. (New) The device according to claim 27, wherein the distance of the draw-in rollers from the drawing rollers is shorter than the side length of the support elements.

29. (New) A method for supplying and processing packages, especially beverage packs, arranged on support elements which are arranged vertically on a continuously running conveyor belt, comprising the following steps:

drawing in a support element from a waiting position into a draw-in position,
transporting the support element from the draw-in position into a processing position by movement of the revolving cycle belts arranged at the side of the support element,
processing the pack on the support element in the processing position with the cycle belts stationary,

further transport of the support element by means of the cycle belts, and
transfer to the continuously running conveyor belt.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the attainment of the draw-in position is monitored during drawing in of the support element.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein the movement of the cycle belt for transport is only started after reaching the draw-in position of the support element.

32. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the speed of the support element during drawing in is reduced before reaching the draw-in position.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein during drawing in of the support element the attainment of a braking position is monitored and after reaching the braking position the speed of the support element is reduced.

34. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the support element is conveyed during drawing in of the draw-in rollers and is then brought into the draw-in position by the drawing rollers.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein on reaching the draw-in position, the support element is only in engagement with drawing rollers.

36. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the processing position composite packaging blanks are placed on the support elements.

37. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the processing position packaging blanks arranged on the support elements are formed into finished packs.

38. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the processing position packs arranged on the support elements are filled.

39. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the processing position pouring elements are sealed onto the packs arranged on the support elements.

40. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein the processing position pouring openings are sealed on the packs arranged on the support elements.